

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (Marked-up copies of the amended claims are attached as an Appendix):

A²
1. (Amended) A machine for producing a tissue web comprising:
a forming area including at least one rotating continuous dewatering wire with a plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities; and
at least one shoe press located downstream of said forming area, with respect to a web travel direction.

2. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a former including a forming element and two rotating continuous dewatering belts;
said two rotating continuous dewatering belts being arranged to converge to form a stock entry gap and being conducted over said forming element as an outer belt, which does not contact said forming element, and as an inner belt,
wherein at least one of said outer and said inner belts comprises said at least one rotating continuous dewatering wire with said plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities.

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7. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 2, wherein said former comprises a crescent former, and wherein said outer belt comprises said at least one dewatering wire with said plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities and said inner belt comprises a felt belt.

16. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said at least one dewatering wire with said plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities is located in an initial dewatering area.

A⁴ 17. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said at least one dewatering wire with said plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities comprises a fabric formed by filling and warp yarns.

18. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 17, wherein said at least one dewatering wire with said plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities comprises a fabric formed only by filling and warp yarns.

19. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 17, wherein zones of different wire permeability of said at least one dewatering wire are produced by at least one of weaving yarns of different diameter and different weave pattern.

20. (Amended) The machine in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a conditioning device assigned to said at least one dewatering wire with said plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities.

A⁵ 22. A process for producing a tissue web in a tissue machine having a forming area including at least one rotating continuous dewatering wire with a plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities and at least one shoe press, the process comprising:

dewatering the tissue web with at least the at least one continuous dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities; and

pressing the tissue web in the at least one shoe press downstream of the forming are.

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23. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 22, wherein the tissue machine further including a former with a forming element and two rotating continuous dewatering belts arranged to converge to form a stock entry gap and then guided over the forming element as an outer belt, which does not contact the forming element, and as an inner belt, such that at least one of said outer and said inner belts comprises said at least one rotating continuous dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities, and said process further comprises:

forming the tissue web between the inner and outer belts; and

guiding the inner and outer belts and tissue web over the forming element.

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28. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 23, wherein said former comprises a crescent former, and the outer belt comprises the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities, and the inner belt comprises a felt belt.

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32. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 22, further comprising dewatering the tissue web, in an initial dewatering area, with at least the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities.

33. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 22, wherein the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities comprises a fabric formed by filling and warp yarns.

34. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 33, wherein the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities comprises a fabric formed only by filling and warp yarns.

35. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 22, wherein the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities comprises zones of different wire permeability formed by at least one of weaving yarns of different diameter and different weave pattern.

36. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 22, wherein the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities is located in an area in which solids content of the tissue web is less than about 20%.

37. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 36, wherein the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities is located in an area in which solids content of the tissue web is less than about 12%.

38. (Amended) The process in accordance with claim 36, wherein the at least one dewatering wire with the plurality of zones having different wire permeabilities is located in an initial sheet forming area having a solids content of less than about 6%.

39. (Amended) An tissue paper former comprising:

a forming element;

at least two rotating continuous dewatering wires, in which at least one of said two rotating continuous dewatering wires has a plurality of zones with different wire

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permeabilities, arranged over said forming element, as an outer wire not in contact with said forming element and as an inner wire; and

at least one shoe press arranged downstream, relative to a wire travel direction, from said forming element.

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41. (Amended) The tissue paper former in accordance with claim 40, wherein the at least one dewatering wire with said plurality of zones with different wire permeabilities comprises a plurality of zones in which each zone has a maximum extension of less than about 5 mm.

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43. (Amended) The tissue paper former in accordance with claim 40, wherein said former comprises a crescent former, and wherein said outer belt comprises said at least one dewatering wire with said plurality of zones with different wire permeabilities and said inner belt comprises a felt belt.

Please enter the following new claims for consideration by the Examiner:

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---49. The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said zones of different wire permeabilities are formed by warp and weft threads.

50. The machine in accordance with claim 1, wherein said zones of different wire permeabilities are structured to provide at least two different dewatering speeds.

51. The process in accordance with claim 22, wherein said zones of different wire permeabilities are formed by warp and weft threads.

52. The process in accordance with claim 22, wherein said zones of different wire